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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/747,428	12/22/2000	Neelam N. Vaidya	0007056-0174/PS701NP/ARG/	1488
EXAMINER				
AL HASHEMI, SANA A				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is issued in response to applicant's RCE filed 5/8/06.
2. Claims 1-24 are pending. No claims were added. None were canceled.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

3. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 5/8/06 has been entered.
4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

5. Claims 1-24, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee et al. (Lee hereinafter)(US Patent Application No. 2002/0169788 provisional application filed February 16, 2000).

Regarding Claims 1, 6, 11, and 16, Lee discloses a method for managing a plurality of nodes in a layered hierarchically organized database stored in a server on a computer network comprising:

accessing a subset of said nodes in response to a client request (Paragraph 0282, lines 1-7, Lee);

modifying one or more state attributes associated with said nodes to control merging and updating of layers to a resulting layered hierarchical database in response to said client request, wherein the one or more state attributes indicates a last action taken on a corresponding data element (Paragraph 0233-0235, Lee); and

managing said nodes using said state attribute, wherein each one of said state attributes comprises an eXtensible Markup Language (XML) format attribute (Paragraph 0222, Lee).

Regarding Claims 2, 7, 12, and 17, Lee discloses a method wherein said state attributes indicate that a corresponding data element is one of updated default, deleted, and added ((Paragraph 0254, Lee)).

Regarding Claims 3, 8, 13, and 18, Lee discloses a method wherein each one of said state attributes includes a value of one of default, replaced, modified, and deleted, indicating a last action taken on a corresponding data element ((Paragraph 0282, lines 1-7, Lee).

Regarding Claims 4, 9, 14, 19, and 21-24, Lee discloses the method wherein each one of said nodes comprises an XML node (Paragraph 0225, Lee).

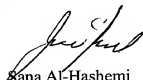
Regarding Claims 5, 10, 15, and 20, Lee discloses a method wherein said nodes are organized in a Document Object Model format(Paragraph 0222 Lee).

Points of Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sana Al-Hashemi whose telephone number is (571) 272-4013. The examiner can normally be reached on 8Am-4:30Pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on (571) 272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Sana Al-Hashemi
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July 7, 2006